

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 11a has been amended to add shading to the wall
(2) surrounding the fuel duct (3).

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Figure 11a has been amended to add shading to the wall (2) surrounding the fuel duct (3). The specification has also been amended.

The March 2, 2006 Official Action identified Species I as Figures 1-3; Species II as Figures 7-8; Species III as Figures 4-6; Species IV to include Figure 11a; and Species V to include Figure 11b. This identification of species is discussed below.

Applicant elected Species III.

As per the specification, page 4, Figures 1-3 are views of a first embodiment of a device according to the invention; Figure 4 is a schematic perspective view of a second embodiment of a device according to the invention, with Figure 5 being a first section view of the device of Figure 4, and Figure 6 being a second section view of the device of Figure 4.

Figures 11a and 11b are plan views of the lower and upper parts of a second embodiment, and accordingly refer to the same embodiment as Figures 4-6. Figures 4-6 necessarily include a wall defining the fuel duct.

Claims 8-11 were directed to the elected embodiment of Species III, Figures 4-6. See the response of March 29, 2006.

Prior claims 8-11 were indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter, and allowable apart from formal matters.

The present claims replace claims 8-11, redrafted to recite the subject matter of claims 8-11 and to be proper as to form. Claims 22-25 and 27 read on Species III, as illustrated by Figures 4-6. Claims 26 and 28 are also believed to read on Species III, as further detailed by Figure 11a.

The paragraph spanning pages 5-7 of the original specification discloses "Magnets of the embodiment of figures 1 - 3 and 7 - 8 are comprised of two ring shaped permanent magnets 4, opposed each other, while in the embodiment shown in figures 4 - 6 are comprised of two opposed rings made up of ferromagnetic material, on which permanent magnets 4 are mounted, having a cylindrical integral tablet shape or a ring shape. Ring magnets and magnet bearing ferromagnetic rings are spaced in such a way to allow the fuel flowing through the duct inside the device, defined by their surface faced toward the inside of the box 1 and by the walls of the same box, and respectively placed on the bottom (lower ring) 5 and under the lid (upper ring) 6 on the cylinder placed at the centre of the device box 1, that can be comprised of the same material of the box, or partially comprised of ferromagnetic material, or of other material."

Figure 11a shows the housing element (box 1) with the recited fuel inlet and fuel outlet. A wall (2) defines the

recited fuel duct inside the housing element from the fuel inlet to the fuel outlet, the fuel duct being between the top and the bottom of the housing and between the magnets. The specification uses the term "septum" to refer to this wall as the wall is a dividing wall or a partition. With reference to Figure 11a, see that the wall 2 divides the device, along the vertical centerline, into a left portion and a right portion.

As disclosed in the specification, this wall/septum provides a geometry that ensures a long path of the fluid fuel within the magnetic field, in such a way to obtain a high efficiency of the ionizing action. Put another way, the wall 2 provides that the fuel duct has a long length in order to maximize the ionizing action of the fuel passing through the fuel duct.

Withdrawal of the formal rejection is therefore solicited.

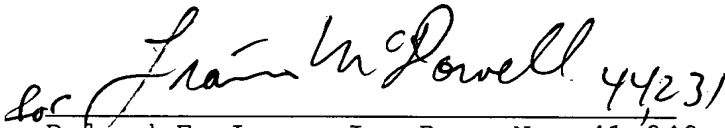
In reliance thereupon, allowance of all the claims is therefore solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/lk

Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- replacement sheet for Figure 11a